

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY PROCLAIMS MAY 15 AS 'TOURISM DAY'**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley has proclaimed Tuesday, May 15 as Tourism Day in recognition of the vital contributions of travel and tourism to the economic and cultural growth of North Carolina.

“Travel enhances our personal growth and education, while promoting understanding and appreciation of North Carolina’s history, geography and culture,” Easley said. “Tourism is also a rapidly growing industry that contributed \$15.4 billion to the economy in our state last year and provides jobs to more than 187,000 North Carolinians.”

In celebration of Tourism Day, a full-day of events is scheduled in Raleigh. In addition, North Carolina Welcome Centers across the state have events planned throughout the week of May 14-18. For a list of activities, visit [www.nccommerce.com/tourism/TourismWeek/welcomeCenters.asp](http://www.nccommerce.com/tourism/TourismWeek/welcomeCenters.asp).

**Tourism Facts:**

- More than 45 million visitors came to North Carolina in 2006, making it the sixth most visited state in the nation.
- Travel in North Carolina generated more than \$15.4 billion in tourism-related expenditures, an increase of 8.3 percent over the previous year.
- The tourism industry directly employs more than 187,000 North Carolinians.
- Each North Carolina household would pay \$347 more in state and local taxes without the tax revenue generated by visitors to North Carolina.

For more information about Tourism Day, contact Wit Tuttell at the Commerce Department’s Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development at (919) 733-7420 or [wit@visitnc.com](mailto:wit@visitnc.com).

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